

## CLAIMS

1. An information recording apparatus (1) incorporating; a memory device (3) having a defined quantity of storage space, and an interface (2) for use by a user in initiating the recordal of data onto the memory device (3),  
5 wherein a selected portion of the storage space of the memory device (3) is reserved for the recording of data in an emergency situation and the interface (2) is configured such that instructions to record data to the selected portion of the memory device (3) are effected by means separate from those used to  
10 initiate recordal of data in the remainder of the memory device.

2. An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information recording apparatus is a digital video recording apparatus.

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3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information recording apparatus is selected from a music player/recorder, a digital camera, personal digital assistant (PDA), a personal computer (PCs) or a digital telephone.

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4. An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the interface is selected from; a remote control handset, a control panel provided on the body of the apparatus or an on screen menu display from which desired operations of the recording apparatus can be selected.

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5. An information recording apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the means for initiating recordal of a data item to the selected portion of the memory device is embodied in the form of an emergency record button.

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6. An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the emergency record button is in the form of an icon provided on a screen display.

5 7. An information recording apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising an encoding device for encoding data to be stored in the selected portion.

10 8. An information recording apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the memory device consists of a CD, DVD, mini-disc, digital tape or a hard disk.

15 9. An information recording apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the apparatus includes a controller (4) for managing storage and retrieval operations within the memory device.

20 10. An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein the controller (4) comprises a microprocessor (4) programmed to perform certain operations including storage and retrieval of data.

11. An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or 10 wherein the controller (4) is configured to carry out financial transactions between a user of the apparatus and a supplier of data to be recorded, or a supplier of emergency memory in the selected portion of the memory device.

25 12. A method for storing a defined data item in an information recording apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 11 comprising;  
determining the space required for storing the defined data item;  
checking the space available in the remainder of the memory device  
30 and if the latter is less than the former;  
locating a selected portion of the memory device;  
downloading the defined data item from its source; and

recording the defined data item onto the selected portion.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising;  
checking the space available in the selected portion and if the latter is  
5 less than the space required for recording the defined data item, reorganising  
the pre-recorded data in the selected portion so as to provide the space  
required for storing the data item.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the step of reorganising  
10 include compressing pre-recorded data stored in the selected portion.

15. A method as claimed in claim 13 or 14 wherein the step of  
reorganising includes deleting or overwriting pre-recorded data.

15 16. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 15 further comprising  
a step of encrypting the defined data item.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a step of  
receiving authorisation for payment of a fee by the user of the apparatus and  
20 in response, decrypting the data item.